United Nations A/C.4/54/SR.2

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Official Records

Distr.: General
14 October 1999
English
Original: Russian

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 22 September 1999, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Zackheos ..... (Cyprus)

Contents

Election of officers

Organization of work

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

99-81372 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Election of officers

1. **Mr. Tae-young Moon** (Republic of Korea), **Mr. Hrbáč** (Slovakia) and **Mr. Bozay** (Turkey) nominated Mr. Semakula Kiwanuka (Uganda), Mr. Kazhura (Belarus) and Mr. Morales (Spain), respectively, for the posts of Chairmen.

2. *Mr. Semakula Kiwanuka (Uganda), Mr. Kazhura (Belarus) and Mr. Morales (Spain) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.*

3. **The Chairman** informed members of the Committee that owing to ongoing consultations the election of the rapporteur would take place at a later meeting of the Committee.

Organization of work (A/C.4/54/1; A/C.4/54/L.1)

4. **The Chairman** drew the attention of Committee members to document A/C.4/54/1 of 20 September 1999, containing a letter dated 17 September 1999 addressed to him by the President of the General Assembly and informing him that at its third plenary meeting, the General Assembly had decided to allocate 14 items to the Fourth Committee for its consideration.

5. In accordance with established practice, the Fourth Committee began its substantive work immediately after the conclusion of the general debate in plenary; in the present instance, that would be on Monday, 4 October 1999. It was planned to conclude the work at the latest by the end of November 1999. It should be noted in that connection that the General Assembly had decided that the First Committee, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Sixth Committee should complete their work by 19 November 1999. Thus, between 4 October and 18 November 1999, the Fourth Committee would hold a maximum of 29 meetings during the course of which it would consider the agenda items allocated to it by the Assembly.

6. He also drew the attention of Committee members to document A/C.4/54/L.1, containing the proposed programme of work and timetable for the Committee arrived at as a result of informal consultations with the parties involved and taking into account the past practice. He indicated the deadlines for inscription of names on the list of speakers for the general debate and the discussion of agenda items 89, 90, 87, 88 and 91, as well as for the submission of draft resolutions. With regard to item 87 ("International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space"), he suggested that, as in previous years, the Committee should establish an open-ended working group of the whole chaired by India to prepare a draft resolution.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **The Chairman** invited delegations to observe the deadlines indicated and to submit draft resolutions that might entail programme budget implications as early as possible, so that the Secretariat could prepare in a timely manner information on those implications. It should be noted in that connection that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee needed time to review the programme budget implications of a draft resolution before it could be acted on by the General Assembly. He hoped that members of the Committee would approve the proposed programme of work and timetable.

9. **Mr. Zaki** (Egypt) noted that for the second year in succession the items corresponding to items 88 and 89 on the current agenda were being considered not in succession, but separately. During the consultations that had been held, the Secretariat had explained that problem as being the result of technical difficulties. It was to be hoped that those difficulties would be overcome and that it would be possible to return to the previous established practice of discussing those items in succession.

10. It should also be noted that five meetings, or more than for other items, had been allocated to the item on peaceful uses of outer space. It was to be hoped that flexibility would be demonstrated in that respect so that due consideration could be given to all the agenda items allocated to the Fourth Committee.

11. **The Chairman** said that in the course of contacts with interested delegations, including that of Egypt, he had explained the problem which had made it necessary to separate agenda items 88 and 89. At the same time, he took note of the two comments by the representative of Egypt.

12. **Mr. Soreyo Legowo** (Indonesia), said that, as far as could be judged from the documentation available, bodies and individuals wishing to speak on the question of East Timor (agenda item 96) would be heard in conjunction with the consideration of that item in the plenary meetings of the General Assembly. The previous week, the General Committee had recommended at the proposal of France, that the plenary meetings on the question of East Timor should be held at the beginning of December. However, the meetings of the Fourth Committee were to conclude by 19 November. He requested clarification.

13. **Mr. Sattar** (Secretary of the Committee) confirmed that the hearings on the question of East Timor, like the

consideration of the other items allocated to the Fourth Committee, must be completed by 19 November. The results of the hearings would have to be reflected in the Committee's report, on which the General Assembly would in turn base its consideration of the question in plenary.

14. **The Chairman** said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted the programme of work and timetable contained in document A/C.4/54/L.1.

15. *It was so decided.*

16. **The Chairman** informed members of the Committee that he intended to open and close meetings punctually. At the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, the Committee had lost 18 hours owing to late starts and early endings of meetings. Committee meetings would be opened only if sufficient speakers were inscribed on the list of speakers, all the more so in that the resources allocated to a meeting which was cancelled at an appropriate time could be released for other meetings. The General Assembly had decided once again to depart from the requirement for a quorum in order for meetings to be declared open and debate permitted to proceed. That did not involve any permanent change in rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure.

17. Delegations should submit draft decisions, draft decisions and amendments, and the names of their sponsors, to the Secretariat in writing, so as to ensure accuracy and avoid any possible misunderstanding. Requests for the use of conference rooms for group meetings should also be submitted in writing, and that should be done as early as possible.

18. He drew the attention of members of the Committee to the fact that document A/C.4./54/INF.1 to be issued within a few days, would list all the documents before the Committee that had been issued as of 1 October 1999. The document would be updated as appropriate.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.